Lomonosov Moscow State University

**British home vs. Russian home**

Final project

(“The world of Britain” course)

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**The definition of a word “house”**



First of all, we need to give a clear definition what a house is supposed to be. According to many respectful sources, a house is a building, which consists of walls (wood, brick, concrete or other materials), a roof protecting people from rain or other precipitation, a door, which may have a lock to protect its habitants from either burglars or other harm and windows. Nowadays most modern houses usually contain one or more bedrooms, a kitchen and a living room. It also may have a separate dining room and a study, a balcony if we are talking about the second floor.

In this project, we will consider different types of houses of Great Britain and Russia comparing not only the architecture but also the interior of them.

We will learn how Russian people lived before the Revolution and if there were any differences between the poor and the rich.

Today in the time of globalization, everything is so similar that’s why it’s worth learning something about our past and our history.

**Types of English houses**

**Terraced house.**

***“A terraced house or a terrace house is one of a row of similar houses joined together by their side walls” - Collins Dictionary.***

It is generally two- to three-storey structures that share a wall with a neighboring. English people say that these houses perfectly expresses key aspects of the national character obsession with privacy and a love of snooping on the neighbors.

The first terraced house was built in Paris in XVII then it appeared in Great Britain especially during the colonial period.

The term of terrace was taken by British architects of the late Georgian period. And it was a real revolution because it could be easy to build 10 or more rows of terraced houses to provide workers with their own homes. In 19th century a staggering 5 million were built.

Terraced house is inseparably associated with working class, especially if we remember Liverpool, the main port of Great Britain and homeland of The Beatles. The terrace boom had arrived after the world’s first industrial superpower. Liverpool’s prosperity was founded on its docks which employed tens of thousands of men. Then Liverpool’s port was one of the busiest in the second half of the 19 century. It was incredibly convenient to supply accommodation to all the “working class heroes”.

**Semi-detached house**

***“Forming one of a pair of residences joined into one building by a common sidewall” - Merriam-webster dictionary***

It appeared for the first time in 1815 and normally had one room on the first floor, which might serve as a living room and two bedrooms upstairs.

The population of Great Britain grew more and more at the beginning of 19th century, the new professions such as insurers, engineers, designers were needed. The growth required more architects, lawyers, teachers, doctors, dentists and shopkeepers. It led to a middle class appearance. Unlike the working class they were more well-to-do and could afford to live somewhere else but in terraced houses. First semi-detached houses were planned in late 18th century (referred to Georgian architecture) and located near the city center. Only in 19th century first houses emerged in London. The reason for this unexpected initiative was an architectural partnership a little bit later a new design of semi-detached house was born.

Even nowadays, there are still popular among people who are looking for some accommodation.

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**Detached**

***“A house that is not joined to any other house” – Collins Dictionary***

The term "single-family detached" tells us who it was built for. This house is tiny and it consists of only two (maximum three) rooms, a small bathroom but the main idea of that is an opportunity to live without common sidewalls. It can be affordable for an ordinary builder or a local law, for instance.

**Types of Russian houses**

**Izba**

***“The traditional log house of rural Russia, with an unheated entrance room and a single living and sleeping room heated by a clay or brickstove” – dictionary.com***

A typical house for peasants usually made of wood consists of the main room served as a dining room, a living room and even a bedroom, an entryway, and even an upper room and a covered yard. Izba, itself is nothing but a masterpiece because of the window decoration elements.

One more hallmark, which makes an izba so attractive, is a Russian oven, the main place in every house of that kind. It protected people from savage cold, it gathered all the family around itself in the evening, it was the warmest place for sleeping. The Russian oven is a hero in many Russian fairy tales, for instance widely known Baba Yaga lives in such a dwelling and can put naughty children to her oven. So parents scare their offspring to make them behave well. It is meant to symbolize one of the most popular Russian item.

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**The mansion**

Unlike an izba a mansion has more than a room that’s why it was a boyar’s property who could afford to maintain it. The house was made of wood (the stone ones were called Chamber). In fact there was neither a plan nor symmetry while it was building, comparing with the modern houses everyone used to have his own style to stand out among others. The unbelievable window decoration was the most attractive part of a building. It should be noted that they also were painted, inside a mansion every person could lose words because of all the magnificence. The wall were covered with foreign treasure wallpapers, there were plenty of details, for instance woodcarving and a brilliant ceiling painted with different ornaments.

**Manor house**

***“Historically the main residence of the lord of the manor” – Wikipedia***

It’s a separate accommodation, a complex of living building, rounding by parks, which form the ensemble. In some of them it could be found even the church. The building relates to the end of 18th –the beginning of 19th century. The term is firmly associated with something unchanging and immovable. Many of them had a well-know creators, it was hardly surprising that some of the manor houses were built according to the architectural project of someone who came abroad. It used to be this way those days, that’s why every manor house had its remarkable atmosphere.

They were an example of luxury and richness. They might have been seen from the distance because of the roof in a shape of a dome. In front of such houses there was a special place where guests’ transport were kept. Carriages were widely used. Entering the house a person got into an entrance hall, which was as spacious as all our modern flats. To achieve the second floor a person went upstairs and couldn’t take his eyes off the stairs because it was made of marble under which there were servant rooms or pantries.

The decoration of these houses were unbelievable. Even in single storey house nobles occupied 7 or 8 rooms. One room served as a dance floor, another was used as a study or a sofa room. Rooms were covered with treasure wallpapers, ceilings were full of gold stucco works. In addition, the owners decorated their properties with a large number of mirrors, clocks, paintings, bronze statues, gobelins and velvet.

However, even in such kind of houses nobody couldn’t imagine living without the Russian oven. There they were done up with stone tiles and tiles made by experienced artists.

The heat wasn’t only due to the oven but also to lights. In halls the light came from huge chandelier, candlesticks full of candles. While they were lighting all the bronze figures and crystal vases played with lights creating memorable impression.

**Communal apartments**

Immediately after Revolution in 1917 thousand of Russian people were provided with their own rooms in manor houses creating something like communities, hostels or barracks in one flat. The real owner of these rooms were limited in rights and all their property was given to common people. They, in turn, sold everything to collectors to earn some money for living.

People shared the kitchen where every family had their own kitchen table. The toilet and the bathroom were always occupied, so people had to wait for their turn to have a shower in the morning.

Every week one of the residents was on duty. He was expected to clean the hall, tidy the bathroom.

In fact, it was a disaster to live in such conditions but for the first time people were pleased to leave their county houses. They couldn’t even imagine that they would keep on living in damaged houses without modern convenient up to 2000.

**Conclusion**

We have considered different types of houses in two countries. There were something in common, there were not but it was a piece of history of Great Britain and Russia. Our history is divided into two parts before and after revolution, that’s why it’s difficult to compare us. Russian people have lost the connection with their history, after Revolution they tried to build a new country with new rules, traditions and ideas. People were lack of religion, choice, they were isolated unlike British people who always had possibilities to travel, to learn. The Russian used to live like that but they had been shocked in 1990 again. It took about 20 years to get used to living according to the new trend.

Nowadays only sightseeing can help to distinguish our main cities. We have more similarities than ever. Globalization make us live in the same way. People move into apartments or flats, which are spacious, full of light and have everything, which is useful for modern people. Nowadays everyone tends to appreciate simplicity, comfort, lack of bright colors, they buy furniture on the Internet and have their flat decorated in one style.

***We have different past but our present is the same.***

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